

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants, further to the Communication filed March 2, 2007, respectfully request the return of a copy of the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 1, 2005 marked to confirm the Office's consideration of the information cited therein.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-32, and 34-39 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 9, 12, 38, and 39 are the independent claims.

Claims 8 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 9 and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 1, 4-7, 14-32, and 34-37 are allowed and that claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. By the present Amendment, none of claims 1, 4-7, 14-32, and 34-37 have been amended. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims should remain allowed. Applicants have, however, rewritten claims 9 and 12 in independent form to include all of the features of their respective base claims 8 and 11. Claims 10 and 13 respectively depend from claims 9 and 12. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9, 10, 12, and 13 are now in allowable form.

Claims 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,549,264 (West). Applicants submit that this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims, as explained above.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after

this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

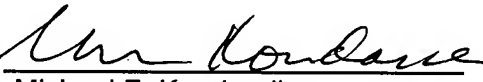
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10-15-07

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